WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

2910205

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
Knappton Cove Restoration and Conservation Based Forest Harvest (KCF Restoration)

2. Name of applicant:
Allen Lebovitz, Ecologist & President
Willapa Land and Dendrology, Corp. (WiLD)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Allen Lebovitz

P.O. Box 1027

South Bend, WA 95856

(425) 681-0028

4. Date checklist prepared:
7/8/04

5. Agency requesting checklist:
WDNR

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Road Construction: July 04'
Forest Thinning: July – October 04'
Instream Restoration: July – October 04'
Road Removal: August – October 04'
Planting: February – April 05'
Monitoring: 2005 – 2015

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Management Plan prepared by WiLD, June 21, 2004

WDNR FPA, July 19, 2004

WDNR Geologists Review, May 10, 2004

Geotechnical Report, July 7,2004

WDFW Site Visit and Eagle Management Plan, April 15, 2004.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
FPA is pending

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

FPA with HPA

Shordines Approval (already granted May 11, 2004)

WDFW Eagle Management Plan (already granted April 15, 2004)

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The project is a forest and aquatic habitat restoration project and selective timber harvest. The project area encompasses 107 acres of a 119 acre total site area. The site was clear cut logged during the 1960's causing severe ground disturbances. It was also not replanted after logging. As a result, the stand was converted to a dense stand of alder from the native spruce and hemlock forest that has been documented at the site prior to logging. The logging also resulted in an increase in landslide activity and severe degradation of a series of fish bearing and non-fish bearing streams that flow through the stand. The proposed project includes the selective thinning of the alder dominated forest and inter-planting with native conifer species to restore historic forest types. It also includes the delivery of large woody debris (LWD) to small fish bearing and non-fish bearing streams to restore historic instream functions and processes. None of the remnant mature and oldgrowth conifer scattered throughout the site will be harvested. Refer to the FPA with supplemental Management Plan for project details.

Once the restoration project has been completed, it is proposed to manage the stand in perpetuity as Columbia River riparian forest. There are no other management activities planned for the site at this time except for monitoring and stand maintenance work as needed.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The forest is located in the Lower Columbia River Watershed (LCRW), just north and east of Astoria Oregon on the Washington side of the Columbia River. It is approximately 7 miles south of the town of Naselle, WA on SR 401. It includes 107 acres of forestland. The property is located in sections 9 & 10 of Township 9 North, Range 9 West.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, **(steep slopes)**, mountainous, other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **90%**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The site contains soils found on marine terraces and uplands. They are classified as the Lytell-Astoria series through much of the parcel. Refer to FPA, Geotechnical Report for details.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Yes, there is evidence of historic deep-seated slide activity and smaller eroding scarps resulting from past logging activity and the naturally eroding Columbia River shordine. Refer to FPA Geotechnical Report for details.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Two short (2,000 feet total) temporary spur roads will be constructed on the ridge top and removed after work is completed. No fill will be placed but approximately 20,000 square feet of grading (an area approximately 2,000 feet long and 10 feet wide) will be completed to construct these roads. The graded areas will be ripped, re-contoured and planted with trees following completion of the project.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Some erosion could occur from road construction and use and timber falling and yarding. All erosion should be very limited in nature and will not deliver to aquatic resources given the small amounts of ground disturbance proposed and the wide vegetated buffers between the activities and surface waters. All roads to be constructed are ridge top roads and are over 200 feet from any surface waters and over 500 feet from fish bearing waters. Additionally, all of the road construction work is planned for dry periods. Ground disturbance from timber removal and LWD placement will be greatly minimized by the use of suspension yarding techniques and the exclusion of heavy equipment from within the forest stand. Heavy equipment will only be operated to build roads and then only on or near developed roads.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Ridge top road construction only.

Suspension yarding with motorized carriage.

Dry season activity planning.

Heavy equipment exclusion.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Some equipment and vehicle exhaust will be emitted during the completion of the project and some dust will be created by driving on forest roads. Amounts are expected to be generally limited in nature and will not persist for longer than 3 months.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
To minimize exhaust emissions for this project and future projects, WiLD is evaluating the feasibility of using bio-diesel in its equipment and requested that its fuel supplier work to supply this alternative fuel. Control of dust from forest road use is not believed to be necessary given the limited amount created from the project that is above current background levels on these roads.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.
Yes. The project is located on the shore of the Columbia River Estuary. There are also six unnamed fish bearing streams and a number of small perennial and intermittent streams that cross through the project area.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, it will include the following activities within 0 and 200 feet of waters:

- **Alder thinning and conifer planting will be completed directly adjacent to the unnamed streams and Columbia River to promote native forest regeneration.**
- **Skyline yarding will take place near and over unnamed streams to remove alder logs and deliver conifer logs to stream for instream restoration work.**

Please refer to the FPA and Alternate Plan for additional details.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

There will be limited amounts of runoff from the temporary forest roads that will be controlled by installing drainage dips and out sloping the roads so that water is quickly dispersed to the forest floor. The roads are located on ridge tops away from surface waters and these practices should significantly reduce alterations of hydrologic processes and eliminate any chances of sediment delivery to surface waters.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Proper forest road location, construction and removal.

Mulching bare ground

Routing road runoff to the forest floor

Dry season activity planning.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

X_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

X_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X_____ shrubs

_____ grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

_____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

A target amount of 50% of the alder will be removed. A small number of immature conifer will be removed from one ridge top location.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

A native mix of hemlock, spruce and cedar will be planted on the site to restore historic forest conditions. Additionally, existing native conifer growth will be promoted by thinning.

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, (eagle), (songbirds), other
mammals: (deer, bear, elk, beaver), other
fish: bass, (salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other)

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Bald Eagle

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

No.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Alder thinning and conifer forest restoration should improve the availability of eagle nesting and roosting habitat over the long term.

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None needed.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None needed.

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None needed

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None needed.

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

No logging will take place between January 1 and July 31 to avoid disturbing nesting eagle. Refer to Eagle Management plan.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

The operation of heavy equipment will temporarily create noise above background highway noise.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Equipment will be excluded from eagle nesting areas until after juvenile eagles have left the nest (Aug. 1).

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Forestry.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

None.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Forest land.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Forest Land, Shorelines of State Significance.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Forest Land, Shorelines of State Significance.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
Yes, Shorelines of State Significance.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
Approximately 8 people will work on the project, none will reside there.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
None.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
None.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
None.

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?
None.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
The project is visible from the Columbia River, Astoria Oregon vicinity, and Hwy 401. No views will be obstructed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
The project employees forest thinning instead of clear-cutting or patch cutting and will leave over 50% of the alder and 100% of the mature conifer trees currently on the landscape. Given this, the project area will retain a high level of aesthetic value during and after the project and show aesthetically compatible forest practices.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
None.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
None.

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
"At your own risk" public access will be allowed after the project is completed.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
None have been identified on the site.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
None have been found.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
Evidence of cultural artifacts will be monitored for throughout the implementation of the project.

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Approximately 2,000 feet of temporary roads are to be constructed.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Does not apply.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Does not apply.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Does not apply.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Does not apply.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None.

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Does not apply.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 7/28/04

Date Submitted: 7/13/04